Electronic exchange in Solapur

*13. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 9000-line Electronic Exchange has been sanctioned for Solapur town, for meeting the backlog under the perspective plan 1995;

(b) if so, the total cost of the plan;

(c) how much of the equipment has been procured and is proposed to be procured this year;

(d) the progress made so far in the installation thereof; and

(e) what is the latest waiting list position and the estimated requirement by the end of 2000 in view of the growing need of the developing town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total cost of the plan is Rs. 1940 lakhs.

(c) Orders have been placed for 9000 lines equipment, out of which 7000 lines equipment has been received. Supply for the remaining 2000 lines equipment is expected by March, 95.

(d) 7000 electronic lines are planned to be commissioneed by March, 95, out of which 4000 lines have already been commissioned on 29-1-95. Balance 3000 lines will be added by March, 95. Another 2000 lines equipment will be commissioned by July, 95.

(e) Latest Waiting List as on 31.1.95 is 9042. The estimated demand of telephones by the end of 2000 year will be 27,691.

Private Sector Power Projects

*14. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is good response to Government's private power programmes from both domestic and international investors as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 26th January, 1995;

(b) if so, what is the total foreign private investment in power sector approved by Government so far;

(c) whether Government have (till 26th January, 1995) approved 13 proposals from the foreign investment angle and whether counter-guarantees have been signed for two projects; if so, by when work on these projects is likely to start indicating the total power capacity proposed to be obtained from these power projects; and

(d) whether Government have issued any guidelines for competitive bidding for private power projects; if so, whether the same has been circulated to all the State Governments for their guidance and assistance including technical assistance by the Power Finance Corporation at a reasonable loan to needy State Governments like Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has so far approved foreign investment in 13 private sector power proposals for a total capacity of 8673 MW with an expected foreign equity investment of Rs. 6324.10 crores. Documents for counter guarantee by the Government of India have been signed for two projects, namely the Dabhol Power Project (Phase I) of capacity 695 MW in the State of Maharashtra and the Ib Valley Project of capacity 420 MW in the State of Orissa. Work is likely to commence after financial closing.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has recently circulated Guidelines for Competitive Bidding to the State Governments which lay down the various parameters involved. The Power Finance Corporation is providing assistance to the State Governments through a Technical Assistance Project under which

loans are provided, which can be utilised by the State Electricity Boards and Power Utilities for hiring consultants to advise them in activities related to preparation of proposals, bid preparation, evaluation and selection of Independent Power Producers, negotiating Power Purchase Agreements, Fuel Supply and other associated agreements.

Prasar Bharati Act

*15. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prasar Bharati Act has lost its relevance with the emergence of Satellite TV and its influence on Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are Government's plans regarding the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, certain changes, inter-alia, in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation, are warranted in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenerio because of the increased international satellite broadcasting in this part of the world. The details in this regard are being finalised.

सूती धागे की कीमतों में वृद्धि

*15. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में हथकरघा उद्योग में विशेष रूप से प्रयोग में आने वाले 40 काऊंट तक के सूती धागे की कीमतों में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो नवम्बर, 1992, 1993 और नवम्बर, 1994 के दौरान 10, 20, 30 और 40 काऊंट के सूती धागे की कीमतें क्या-क्या थीं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने सूती धागे की कीमतों में वृद्धि को रोकने के लिये अनेक कदम उठाये थे;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या हथकरघा बुनकरों को इन कदमों से प्रत्यक्ष लाभ हुआ है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकटें स्वामी) : (क) अक्तूबर, 1994 के दौरान 40 काऊंट तक के सूती हैंक यार्न के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई । तथापि मई, 1994 स इनके मूल्यों में गिरावट आई और मई से अक्तूबर, 1994 की अवधि के दौरान इनके मूल्य स्थिर रहे । कच्ची कपास के मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि के कारण नवम्बर, 1994 से सूती हैंक यार्न के मूल्यों में पुन: वृद्धि आरंभ हो गई ।

(ख) नवम्बर, 1992, 1993 व नवम्बर, 1994 के दौरान 10, 20, 30 और 40 काऊंट तक के सुती धागे के मूल्य इस प्रकार थे:—

काऊंट	नवम्बर, 92	नवम्बर, 93	नवम्बर, 94
10 एस	36.21	38.37	66.33
20 एस	53.90	55.25	81.36
30 एस	61.03	61.38	87.56
40 एस	67.65	68.95	97.34